

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 SIL-01 CU-02

SR-02 ORM-01 SNM-02 /109 W
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R 111020Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9719

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSEPAVDORN BY POUCH

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E.O. 0*652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #21

1. UNREST MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF 1974 LABOR VIOLENCE (LOU)

TENSION IN LABOR AND UNIVERSITY SECTORS OF RANGOON INCREASED AS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY APPROACHED OF LAST YEAR'S CLASH BETWEEN STRIKERS AND SECURITY FORCES THAT LEFT 23 DEAD. GUB ATTEMPTED TO DEFUSE SITUATION BY SENDING BSPP CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS TO EXPLAIN POLICIES TO LABOR AND STUDENT
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GROUPS AND ANNOUNCED OVERTIME PAY HIKES AND INCREASED TEXTILE

DISTRIBUTION. EFFORT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL HOWEVER, AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BOYCOTTED CLASSES AND SITDOWN STRIKES BEGAN AT JUTE AND TEXTILE MILLS AND RAILROAD REPAIR SHOP (RANGOON 1513). GUB THEN ANNOUNCED CLOSING OF ALL UNIVERSITIES JUNE 9 BUT GENERALLY ALLOWED STUDENTS AND OTHER DEMONSTRATORS TO PARADE ABOUT RANGOON OVER PAST WEEKEND UNIMPCOGED. (RANGOON 1534 AND 1553) WITH STRIKES SPREADING TO OTHER PLANTS IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY, GUB INVOKED LAW PROHIBITING DEMONSTRATIONS OR ASSEMBLIES JUNE 11 AND, IN SHARP DEPARTURE FROM BURMESE CUSTOM, SENT TROOPS TO SHWEDAGON PAGODA TO ROUND UP SOME 200 STUDENTS WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE THERE JUNE 10. ALL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ORDERED OFF UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BY 1800 JUNE 11. RANGOON PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED BUT NO CURFEW HAS YET BEEN ESTABLISHED. GUB IS PINNING BLAME FOR STUDENT UNREST SQUARELY ON BCP, CITING SIMILARITIES IN RHETORIC BETWEEN STUDENT PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS AND BCP CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORTING THEIR ACTIVITIES OF JUNE 10.

COMMENT: (LOU) IN MAJORITY OF STUDENT LEAFLETS WE HAVE SEEN, SIMILARITIES TO BCP RHETORIC ARE MINOR AND EASILY ACCOUNTED FOR BY POSITION OF BCP RADIO STATION AS ONLY PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO REGIME, AND BY FACT THAT MOST POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN BURMA FOR PAST 30 YEARS (INCLUDING GUB'S OWN) HAS BEEN IN VAGUELY MARXIST-LENINIST TERMINOLOGY. WE HAVE SEEN NO OTHER EVIDENCE OF BCP INSTIGATION OR ORGANIZATION OF DISTURBANCES, THOUGH IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT SOME PRO-BCP STUDENTS AND WORKERS ARE AMONG THE ACTIVISTS. GUB CAMPAIGN TO BLAME BCP IS GIVING LATTER THE MOST PUBLICITY IT HAS HAD IN YEARS, AND SINCE BCP IS ARTICULATING WIDELY FELT GRIEVANCES THE GUB LINE MAY HELP GIVE IT POPULARITY RATHER THAN OPPROBRIUM.

2. TRANSPORT MINISTER DESIGNATED ENVOY TO UK (LOU)

COUNCIL OF STATE ACCEPTED RESIGNATION OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER U THA KYAW EFFECTIVE JUNE 4 FOR MEDICAL REASONS; HE HAS IN FACT UNDERGONE MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD FROM TIME TO TIME. U THA KYAW, WHOSE MINISTRY IS CONSIDERED ONE OF MOST INEFFICIENT IN GUB, IS BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE UK. BRITISH EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT RUEFUL ABOUT BEING OFFERED WHAT THEY TERM "A SICK CASE" AS BURMA'S NEW ENVOY.

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3. GUB WELCOMES SUEZ REOPENING, BRITISH EEC VOTE (UNCLAS)

EDITORIALS IN OFFICIAL WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY WELCOMED REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL AND BRITISH REFERENDUM IN FAVOR OF EEC MEMBERSHIP.

COMMENT: (UNCLAS) LATTER EDITORIAL SOMEWHAT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF GUB'S USUAL CAREFUL ASIPNANCE OF COMMENT ON ANY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE NOT OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO IT.

4. ALL NOT QUIET
ON THE PEGU YOMA FRONT (UNCLAS)

PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT 46 KAREN FAMILIES, CONSISTING OF ABOUT 250 PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN RESETTLED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE PEGU YOMA WITH THE HELP OF 6,000 "VOLUNTEERS" LED BY A UNIT OF THE BURMA ARMY. PURPOSE OF RESETTLEMENT IS TO PREVENT "PERSECUTION BY REBEL STRAGGLERS."

COMMENT: DESPITE GUB'S BOASTS ABOUT PACIFYING THE PEGU YOMA AFTER THE DEATH OF THE BCP LEADERS THERE LAST MARCH, SOME INSURGENT ACTIVITY EVIDENTLY CONTINUES, EITHER BY BCP OR KAREN REBELS.

5. NARCOTICS: INCREASEING SEIZURES (UNCLAS)

SEIZURES ON NARCOTICS AND OTHER CONTRABAND ARE STEADILY INCREASING

THROUGHOUT BURMA. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF OPIUM SEIZED NEAR KENG TUNG IN MAY (WEEK 18, ITEM 7). 45 VISS (73.8 KILOGRAMS) OF RAW OPIUM WERE CONFISCATED IN RANGOON, 10,000

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KYAT (\$1,613) WORTH OF HEROIN IN LASHIO, AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF HEROIN WAS SEIZED AT RANGOON AIRPORT - ALL IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE. THOUGH NARCOTICS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AS A SEIZED ITEM, K10 MILLION (\$161,300) WORTH OF CONTRABAND WAS CAPTURED BY THE BURMA ARMY IN KAYAH STATE; AN AREA OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN NARCOTICS AND OTHER ILLICIT GOODS TRAFFICKING. AMONG THE GOODS SEIZED WERE 3,000 POUNDS OF JADE.

6. BURMA AIR FORCE PREPARES TO ACCEPT HELICOPTERS (UNCLAS)

A BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY INSTRUCTOR PILOT (IP) ARRIVED IN RANGOON TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE CHECK FLIGHT ON REASSEMBLED HELICOPTERS
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AND TO CONDUCT A SHORT GROUND SCHOOL FOR ASSIGNED BAF PILOTS PREPARATORY TO FLIGHT INSTRUCTION. THE FIRST TWO HELICOPTERS ARE EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

COMMENT: (LOU) THE BELL IP REPORTS THAT BAF PERSONNEL TASKED WITH CONDUCTING HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE AND PILOT TRAINING PROGRAMS APPEAR TO BE VERY WELL PREPARED AND ARE VERY PROFESSIONAL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIMILATE THE NEW AIRCRAFT INTO THE BAF INVENTORY.

7. NEWS AND PERIODICAL CORPORATION HEAD NAMED AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN (LOU)

U TUN TIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORPORATION FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, HAS RECEIVED WORD HE WILL BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD NEXT MONTH. HIS REPLACEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION WHICH CONTROLS ALL BURMESE NEWSPAPERS AND NON-PARTY MAGAZINES IS SAID TO BE EX-LT. COL. THOUNG HTIKE, WHO WILL BE RETURNING FROM BURMESE EMBASSY EAST BERLIN WHERE HE IS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY. U THOUNG HTIKE, ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD, TRAINED AT SANDHURST AND FORT BRAGG, STUDIED JOURNALISM IN EAST GERMANY, SUBSEQUENTLY HELD MIDDLE-LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND FOREIGN OFFICE. HE LATER HEADED THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. HIS HIGHEST POSITION AFTER HE RETURNED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPT. HE IS SKILLED JOURNALIST, EDITORIAL WRITER AND COLUMNIST IN MAY FIELDS. TUN TIN IS A

SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT AND ALSO AN ESTABLISHED WRITER WHOSE SHORT
STORIES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN OBSEQUIOUSLY PRO-GOVERNMENT.
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